

January 4, 1972

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
COUNTY OF RICHLAND ) BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

IN RE: Petition of Ridge Telephone Company, Inc. ) DOCKET NO. 15,648  
requesting authority to increase its local )  
and miscellaneous rates and charges. ) ORDER NO. 15,971

TO: RIDGE TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.

Ridge Telephone Company, Inc. filed a Petition on May 24, 1971, with the South Carolina Public Service Commission requesting authority to increase its local and miscellaneous rates and charges. The proposed rates as requested are as follows:

RATE SCHEDULE

<u>GRADE OF SERVICE</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u> (Monthly)
<u>Business</u>	
1 Party	\$14.00
2 Party	12.50
<u>Residence</u>	
1 Party	\$ 9.00
2 Party	8.00
<u>Extensions</u>	
Business	\$ 1.75
Residence	1.25

PROPOSED MISCELLANEOUS RATES AND CHARGES

	<u>PROPOSED</u>
<u>Service Connection Charges</u>	
Business	\$10.00
Residence	10.00
<u>Relocation Charge</u>	
Business	\$10.00
Residence	6.00
<u>Reconnection Charge</u>	
Business	\$ 5.00
Residence	5.00
<u>Jacks and Plugs</u>	
Business	\$10.00
Residence	10.00
<u>Extension Installation Charge</u>	
Business	\$ 5.00
Residence	5.00
<u>Mobile Installation Charge</u>	\$35.00
<u>Pay Stations - Semi-Public</u>	\$12.00 (Monthly)

A public hearing was held on December 9, 1971, and December 21, 1971, pursuant to notice and all interested parties given an opportunity at that time to be heard on the petition filed herein. At this hearing, the direct testimony of the applicant's witnesses was given.

The protestants presented four witnesses along with a petition with two hundred names on it opposing this increase in rates.

The proposed rates and charges would produce \$35,227.00 in additional operating revenues based on December, 1970 subscribers.

#### FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Based upon the petition, the testimony, and the exhibits introduced in support thereof, the Commission finds and concludes as follows:

1. That the proposed rates filed by Ridge Telephone Company, Inc. are excessive and are therefore denied. The testimony and exhibits indicates that certain rate relief should be granted and that the rate schedule as follows should be approved to become effective February 1, 1972.

#### RATE SCHEDULE

<u>GRADE OF SERVICE</u>	<u>APPROVED</u> (Monthly)
<u>Business</u>	
1 Party	\$14.00
2 Party	12.50
<u>Residence</u>	
1 Party	\$ 8.50
2 Party	6.50
<u>Extensions</u>	
Business	\$ 1.75
Residence	1.25
<u>APPROVED MISCELLANEOUS RATES AND CHARGES</u>	
<u>Service Connection Charges</u>	
Business	\$10.00
Residence	10.00
<u>Relocation Charge</u>	
Business	\$10.00
Residence	6.00

(Continued)

(Continued-Approved Miscellaneous Rates and Charges)

Reconnection Charge

Business	\$ 5.00
Residence	5.00

Jacks and Plugs

Business	\$10.00
Residence	10.00

Extension Installation Charge

Business	\$ 5.00
Residence	5.00

Mobile Installation Charge \$35.00

Pay Stations - Semi-Public \$ 8.00 (Monthly)

2. The rates and charges shown above will produce an increase in operating revenue of \$28,236.00 in local charges plus an increase in Miscellaneous Charges of \$607.00 when applied to the end of the test year 1970. This increase will change a net loss of (\$26,649.48) to a net profit of \$1,054.61 after interest payments for the test period ended December 31, 1970.

3. With the above approved rates and charges, the projected rate of return for the year 1972 would be approximately 4.0% as compared to an approximate rate of return of 2.4% for the test year 1970.

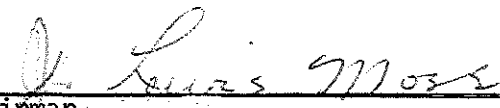
4. It was further recognized that as of December 31, 1970, Ridge Telephone Company, Inc. had \$799,016.77 in REA notes and a deficit Retained Earnings of (\$55,694.38) before any rate relief.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED:

1. That the rates as approved herein shall become effective on February 1, 1972.

2. That this Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Orders of this Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Director of Administration